

SUBSTITUTE MOTION BY SUPERVISOR DON KNABE

June 6, 2012

The Office of the Los Angeles County Assessor is currently surrounded by controversy, in large part due to the Assessor’s alleged inappropriate relationship with a tax agent. It has been reported in the press that these agents have solicited campaign donations from their clients for the Assessor’s election.

In Los Angeles County, tax agents represent and advocate for property owners before our County Assessor, the Assessment Appeals Board and Assessment Hearing Officers. They are paid to represent their clients and influence decisions. This process must be regulated and made transparent to the public. The County of Los Angeles has a very effective campaign finance ordinance that regulates financial contributions to political campaigns for county offices.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Office of County Counsel, Executive Officer and Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk to draft language for a new ordinance that ensures increased transparency in the property tax arena in the County of Los Angeles and prohibits campaign contributions from tax agents who have business before the Assessor, Assessor’s staff, Assessment Appeals Board and Assessment Hearing Officers, and bring back before the Board of Supervisors in 30 days.

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MOTION

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RIDLEY-THOMAS	_____
KNABE	_____
ANTONOVICH	_____
YAROSLAVSKY	_____